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EXAMINER

WANG, BEN C

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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Applicant's amendment dated June 23, 2008, responding to the Office action mailed March 21, 2008 provided in the rejection of claims 1-15, wherein claims 1-11 and 15 have been amended

Claims 1-15 remain pending in the application and which have been fully considered by the examiner.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims currently amended have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection – see *Ginter et al.* - art made of record, as applied hereto.

2. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

***Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102(e)***

The following is quotation of 35 U.S.C. 102(e) which form the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ginter et al., (Pat. No. US 7,095,854 B1) (hereinafter 'Ginter' - art made of record)

4. **As to claim 1** (Currently Amended), Ginter discloses a method comprising:

(i) querying a user to identify, via configuration software of a computer system, activities that make up a business process (e.g., Col. 3, Lines 36-37 - VDE (Virtual Distribution Environment) provides comprehensive and configurable transaction management ...; Col. 6, Lines 66-67 – configurable control set information that can be selected by users ...; Col. 8, Line 60 through Col. 9, Line 4 - ... VDE supports systems by which such applications can be created, modified, and/or reused ... by offering a system that supports a standardized control environment ... models through the use of a programmable, secure electronic transactions management foundation and reusable and extensible executable components .. a single electronic “world” within which most forms of electronic transaction activities can be managed; Col. 10, Lines 59-65 - with VDE, electronic commerce participants are free to structure and restructure their electronic commerce business activities and relationships ...; Col. 19, Lines 53-62 - VDE

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also accommodates a semi-automated process ... through user interface means ...

processing certain control information ... to certain user interface queries for selection of certain alternative choices ...);

(ii) for each activity identified in step (i), querying the user to provide process control elements that define a behavior of the respective activity of the business process (e.g., Col. 84, Lines 45-59 - ... These same components can be combined in different ways to form different component assemblies providing completely different functional behavior ...) with respect to a business object to be acted on by the activity (e.g., Col. 2, Lines 34-39 - ... transaction control ...), for said process control elements including:

- a status element, which represents a progress level within the business process that the data object has reached by arriving at the instant activity (e.g., Col. 93, Lines 38-41 - ... to store control and status information; Col. 94, Lines 63-67 - ... a mechanism for querying the status and controlling a loaded services ...; Fig. 28 – element of 447(1) - Receiving Record; Col. 155, Lines 44-49 - ... scheduled and/or completed reception ...; Col. 290, Lines 27-40 - ... use the search mechanism to help locate content ... schedule content for delivery, make inquiries of account status ...);
- a user interface element, which defines the scope within which users are allowed to operate on the data object for the instant activity (e.g., Abstract, Lines 1-11 - ... to ensure that information is accessed and used only in authorized way and maintain the integrity, availability, and/or confidentiality of the information ...; Fig. 72A – LOG IN USER INTERFACE; Col. 6, Lines 19-32 – Chain of Handling and

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Control - ... VDE can protect a collection of rights belonging to various parties having in rights in, or to, electronic information ...; Col. 17, Lines 33-37 – VDE supports widely varying business and/or data security models that can involve a broad range of participants at various “levels” of VDE content and/or content control information pathways of handling);

- a plausibility check element, which verifies that the data object sufficiently meets a set of criteria to proceed past the instant activity (e.g., Col. 19, Lines 38-44 - ... from an automated electronic process ... “evaluated” ... whether certain other electronic terms and conditions attached to content ... are acceptable ...);
- a release element, which signals that the data object is ready to proceed past the instant activity in the business process (e.g., Col. 57, Lines 53-55 – The “events process” detects things that happen (“event”) and determines which of those “events” need action by the other “processes.”; Fig. 52; Col.189, Lines 50-55 – CLOSE method also releases appropriate records and resources associated with the object at this time ...), and
- an authorization element, which specifies a set of users that is allowed to operate on the data object for the instant activity (e.g., Abstract, Lines 1-11 - ... to ensure that information is accessed and used only in authorized way and maintain the integrity, availability, and/or confidentiality of the information ...; Fig. 36; Fig. 78 – element 3346 – Authorization System; Col. 11, Line 60 through Col. 12, Lines 46; Col. 17, Lines 33-37 - ... a broad range of participants at various “levels” of VDE content and/or content control information pathways of handling); and

(iii) storing the defined business process and activity behaviors in configuration data of the computer system (e.g., Col. 27, Line 1 through Col. 28, Line 17 – employ “templates” to ease the process of configuring capabilities of the present invention as they relate to specific industries or business ... Templates support the efficient specification and/or manipulation of criteria related to specific content types, distribution approaches ...; Col. 56, Lines 56-58 – “Rules and controls” may “persist” as they pass through a “chain of handling and control” ...); and

(iv) dynamically generate the business process from the activities and the process control elements provided by the user, to operate on business objects managed by the computer system (e.g., Col. 88, Lines 2-7 - the ability to dynamically assemble independently deliverable components at execution time based on particular objects and users provides a high degree of flexibility, and facilitates or enables a distributed database, processing and execution environment ...; Col. 169, Lines 11-21 – ROS (Rights Operating System) dynamically creates active processes and task in response to the occurrence of an event ... This ability to dynamically create (and end) tasks in response to events provides great flexibility ...)

5. **As to claim 2** (Currently Amended) (incorporating the rejection in claim 1), Ginter discloses the method further comprising performing one or more activities of the business process in accordance with a corresponding defined behavior (e.g., system (e.g., Col. 27, Line 1 through Col. 28, Line 17 – employ “templates” to ease the process of configuring capabilities of the present invention as they relate to specific industries or

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business ... Templates support the efficient specification and/or manipulation of criteria related to specific content types, distribution approaches ...)

6. **As to claim 3** (Currently Amended), Ginter discloses a computer system comprising:

- a processor;
- a memory coupled to the processor and storing instructions adapted to be executed by the processor, the instructions implementing a method including:
  - querying a user to identify, via configuration software, activities that make up business process (e.g., Col. 3, Lines 36-37 - VDE (Virtual Distribution Environment) provides comprehensive and configurable transaction management ...; Col. 6, Lines 66-67 – configurable control set information that can be selected by users ...; Col. 8, Line 60 through Col. 9, Line 4 - ... VDE supports systems by which such applications can be created, modified, and/or reused ... by offering a system that supports a standardized control environment ... models through the use of a programmable, secure electronic transactions management foundation and reusable and extensible executable components .. a single electronic “world” within which most forms of electronic transaction activities can be managed; Col. 10, Lines 59-65 - with VDE, electronic commerce participants are free to structure and restructure their electronic commerce business activities and relationships ...; Col. 19, Lines 53-62 - VDE also accommodates a semi-automated process ... through user interface means

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... processing certain control information ... to certain user interface queries for selection of certain alternative choices ...);

- for each identified activity, querying the user to provide process control elements that define a behavior of the respective activity of the business process (e.g., Col. 84, Lines 45-59 - ... These same components can be combined in different ways to form different component assemblies providing completely different functional behavior ...) with respect to a business object to be acted on by the activity (e.g., Col. 2, Lines 34-39 - ... transaction control ...), said process control elements (e.g.,) including:

- a status element, which represents a progress level within the business process that the data object has reached by arriving at the instant activity (e.g., Col. 93, Lines 38-41 - ... to store control and status information; Col. 94, Lines 63-67 - ... a mechanism for querying the status and controlling a loaded services ...; Fig. 28 – element of 447(1) - Receiving Record; Col. 155, Lines 44-49 - ... scheduled and/or completed reception ...; Col. 290, Lines 27-40 - ... use the search mechanism to help locate content ... schedule content for delivery, make inquiries of account status ...);
- a user interface element, which defines the scope within which users are allowed to operate on the data object for the instant activity (e.g., Abstract, Lines 1-11 - ... to ensure that information is accessed and used only in authorized way and maintain the integrity, availability, and/or confidentiality of the information ...; Fig. 72A – LOG IN USER INTERFACE; Col. 6, Lines 19-

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- 32 – Chain of Handling and Control - ... VDE can protect a collection of rights belonging to various parties having in rights in, or to, electronic information ...;
- Col. 17, Lines 33-37 – VDE supports widely varying business and/or data security models that can involve a broad range of participants at various “levels” of VDE content and/or content control information pathways of handling);
- a plausibility check element, which verifies that the data object sufficiently meets a set of criteria to proceed past the instant activity (e.g., Col. 19, Lines 38-44 - ... from an automated electronic process ... “evaluated” ... whether certain other electronic terms and conditions attached to content ... are acceptable ...);
  - a release element, which signals that the data object is ready to proceed past the instant activity in the business process (e.g., Col. 57, Lines 53-55 – The “events process” detects things that happen (“event”) and determines which of those “events” need action by the other “processes.”; Fig. 52; Col.189, Lines 50-55 – CLOSE method also releases appropriate records and resources associated with the object at this time ...), and
  - an authorization element, which specifies a set of users that is allowed to operate on the data object for the instant activity (e.g., Abstract, Lines 1-11 - ... to ensure that information is accessed and used only in authorized way and maintain the integrity, availability, and/or confidentiality of the information ...; Fig. 36; Fig. 78 – element 3346 – Authorization System; Col. 11, Line 60

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- through Col. 12, Lines 46; Col. 17, Lines 33-37 - ... a broad range of participants at various “levels” of VDE content and/or content control information pathways of handling);
- storing the defined business process and activity behaviors in configuration data of the computer system (e.g., Col. 27, Line 1 through Col. 28, Line 17 – employ “templates” to ease the process of configuring capabilities of the present invention as they relate to specific industries or business ...  
Templates support the efficient specification and/or manipulation of criteria related to specific content types, distribution approaches ...; Col. 56, Lines 56-58 – “Rules and controls” may “persist” as they pass through a “chain of handling and control” ...); and
  - dynamically generating the business process from the activities and the process control elements provided by the user, to operate on business objects managed by the computer system (e.g., Col. 88, Lines 2-7 - the ability to dynamically assemble independently deliverable components at execution time based on particular objects and users provides a high degree of flexibility, and facilitates or enables a distributed database, processing and execution environment ...; Col. 169, Lines 11-21 – ROS (Rights Operating System) dynamically creates active processes and task in response to the occurrence of an event ... This ability to dynamically create (and end) tasks in response to events provides great flexibility ...)

7. **As to claim 4** (Currently Amended) (incorporating the rejection in claim 3), Ginter discloses the system the method further comprising performing one or more activities of the business process in accordance with the configuration data (e.g., Col. 27, Line 1 through Col. 28, Line 17 – employ “templates” to ease the process of configuring capabilities of the present invention as they relate to specific industries or business ... Templates support the efficient specification and/or manipulation of criteria related to specific content types, distribution approaches ...; Col. 56, Lines 56-58 – “Rules and controls” may “persist” as they pass through a “chain of handling and control” ...)

8. **As to claim 5** (Currently Amended) (incorporating the rejection in claim 3), Ginter discloses the computer system the method further comprising associating respective configuration values with retrieval parameters (e.g., Fig. 21, element of 872a – PARAMETERS & DATA; Col. 20, Lines 49-59 - ... for data values based on operational parameters ...)

9. **As to claim 6** (incorporating the rejection in claim 5) (Original), Ginter discloses the computer system the method further comprising reading configuration values based on the retrieval parameters (e.g., Fig. 21, element of 872a – PARAMETERS & DATA; Col. 20, Lines 49-59 - ... for data values based on operational parameters ...), and controlling a behavior of one or more activities of the business process or an activity thereof based on the configuration values (e.g., Col. 27, Line 1 through Col. 28, Line 17 – employ “templates” to ease the process of configuring capabilities of the present

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invention as they relate to specific industries or business ... Templates support the efficient specification and/or manipulation of criteria related to specific content types, distribution approaches ...)

10. **As to claim 7** (Currently Amended), Ginter discloses a machine-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions adapted to be executed by a processor to perform a method including:

- querying a user to identify, via configuration software, activities that make up a business process comprises (e.g., Col. 3, Lines 36-37 - VDE (Virtual Distribution Environment) provides comprehensive and configurable transaction management ...; Col. 6, Lines 66-67 – configurable control set information that can be selected by users ...; Col. 8, Line 60 through Col. 9, Line 4 - ... VDE supports systems by which such applications can be created, modified, and/or reused ... by offering a system that supports a standardized control environment ... models through the use of a programmable, secure electronic transactions management foundation and reusable and extensible executable components .. a single electronic “world” within which most forms of electronic transaction activities can be managed; Col. 10, Lines 59-65 - with VDE, electronic commerce participants are free to structure and restructure their electronic commerce business activities and relationships ...; Col. 19, Lines 53-62 - VDE also accommodates a semi-automated process ... through user interface means ... processing certain control information ... to certain user interface queries for selection of certain alternative choices ...);

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- for each identified activity, querying the user to provide process control elements that define a behavior of the respective activity of the business process (e.g., Col. 84, Lines 45-59 - ... These same components can be combined in different ways to form different component assemblies providing completely different functional behavior ...) with respect to a business object to be acted on by the activity (e.g., Col. 2, Lines 34-39 - ... transaction control ...), said process control elements including:
  - a status element, which represents a progress level within the business process that the data object has reached by arriving at the instant activity (e.g., Col. 93, Lines 38-41 - ... to store control and status information; Col. 94, Lines 63-67 - ... a mechanism for querying the status and controlling a loaded services ...; Fig. 28 – element of 447(1) - Receiving Record; Col. 155, Lines 44-49 - ... scheduled and/or completed reception ...; Col. 290, Lines 27-40 - ... use the search mechanism to help locate content ... schedule content for delivery, make inquiries of account status ...);
  - a user interface element, which defines the scope within which users are allowed to operate on the data object for the instant activity (e.g., Abstract, Lines 1-11 - ... to ensure that information is accessed and used only in authorized way and maintain the integrity, availability, and/or confidentiality of the information ...; Fig. 72A – LOG IN USER INTERFACE; Col. 6, Lines 19-32 – Chain of Handling and Control - ... VDE can protect a collection of rights belonging to various parties having in rights in, or to, electronic information ...;

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Col. 17, Lines 33-37 – VDE supports widely varying business and/or data security models that can involve a broad range of participants at various “levels” of VDE content and/or content control information pathways of handling);

- a plausibility check element, which verifies that the data object sufficiently meets a set of criteria to proceed past the instant activity (e.g., Col. 19, Lines 38-44 - ... from an automated electronic process ... “evaluated” ... whether certain other electronic terms and conditions attached to content ... are acceptable ...);
- a release element, which signals that the data object is ready to proceed past the instant activity in the business process (e.g., Col. 57, Lines 53-55 – The “events process” detects things that happen (“event”) and determines which of those “events” need action by the other “processes.”; Fig. 52; Col.189, Lines 50-55 – CLOSE method also releases appropriate records and resources associated with the object at this time ...), and
- an authorization element, which specifies a set of users that is allowed to operate on the data object for the instant activity (e.g., Abstract, Lines 1-11 - ... to ensure that information is accessed and used only in authorized way and maintain the integrity, availability, and/or confidentiality of the information ...; Fig. 36; Fig. 78 – element 3346 – Authorization System; Col. 11, Line 60 through Col. 12, Lines 46; Col. 17, Lines 33-37 - ... a broad range of

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- participants at various “levels” of VDE content and/or content control information pathways of handling); and
- storing defined business process and activity behaviors in configuration data of the computer system (e.g., Col. 27, Line 1 through Col. 28, Line 17 – employ “templates” to ease the process of configuring capabilities of the present invention as they relate to specific industries or business ...  
Templates support the efficient specification and/or manipulation of criteria related to specific content types, distribution approaches ...; Col. 56, Lines 56-58 – “Rules and controls” may “persist” as they pass through a “chain of handling and control” ...); and
  - dynamically generating the business process from the activities and the process control elements provided by the user, to operate on business objects managed by the computer system (e.g., Col. 88, Lines 2-7 - the ability to dynamically assemble independently deliverable components at execution time based on particular objects and users provides a high degree of flexibility, and facilitates or enables a distributed database, processing and execution environment ...; Col. 169, Lines 11-21 – ROS (Rights Operating System) dynamically creates active processes and task in response to the occurrence of an event ... This ability to dynamically create (and end) tasks in response to events provides great flexibility ...)

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11. **As to claim 8** (Currently Amended) (incorporating the rejection in claim 7), please refer to claim **5** as set forth above accordingly.

12. **As to claim 9** (Currently Amended), Ginter discloses a method comprising: reading configuration data to determine a behavior of a user-identified activity of a business process with respect to a business object (e.g., Col. 27, Line 1 through Col. 28, Line 17 – employ “templates” to ease the process of configuring capabilities of the present invention as they relate to specific industries or business ... Templates support the efficient specification and/or manipulation of criteria related to specific content types, distribution approaches ...; Col. 56, Lines 56-58 – “Rules and controls” may “persist” as they pass through a “chain of handling and control” ...), to be acted on by the activity, wherein user-provided process control elements define the behavior stored in the configuration data said process control elements (e.g., Col. 2, Lines 34-39 - ... transaction control ...) including:

- a status element, which represents a progress level within the business process that the data object has reached by arriving at the instant activity ();
- a user interface element, which defines the scope within which users are allowed to operate on the data object for the instant activity (e.g., Col. 93, Lines 38-41 - ... to store control and status information; Col. 94, Lines 63-67 - ... a mechanism for querying the status and controlling a loaded services ...; Fig. 28 – element of 447(1) - Receiving Record; Col. 155, Lines 44-49 - ... scheduled and/or completed reception ...; Col. 290, Lines 27-40 - ... use the search mechanism to

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help locate content ... schedule content for delivery, make inquiries of account status ...)

- a plausibility check element, which verifies that the data object sufficiently meets a set of criteria to proceed past the instant activity (e.g., Col. 19, Lines 38-44 - ... from an automated electronic process ... “evaluated” ... whether certain other electronic terms and conditions attached to content ... are acceptable ...);
- a release element, which signals that the data object is ready to proceed past the instant activity in the business process (e.g., Col. 57, Lines 53-55 – The “events process” detects things that happen (“event”) and determines which of those “events” need action by the other “processes.”; Fig. 52; Col.189, Lines 50-55 – CLOSE method also releases appropriate records and resources associated with the object at this time ...), and
- an authorization element, which specifies a set of users that is allowed to operate on the data object for the instant activity (e.g., Abstract, Lines 1-11 - ... to ensure that information is accessed and used only in authorized way and maintain the integrity, availability, and/or confidentiality of the information ...; Fig. 36; Fig. 78 – element 3346 – Authorization System; Col. 11, Line 60 through Col. 12, Lines 46; Col. 17, Lines 33-37 - ... a broad range of participants at various “levels” of VDE content and/or content control information pathways of handling); and
- performing the activity in accordance with the configuration data (e.g., Col. 27, Line 1 through Col. 28, Line 17 – employ “templates” to ease the process of configuring capabilities of the present invention as they relate to specific

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industries or business ... Templates support the efficient specification and/or manipulation of criteria related to specific content types, distribution approaches ...; Col. 56, Lines 56-58 – “Rules and controls” may “persist” as they pass through a “chain of handling and control” ...)

13. **As to claim 10** (Currently Amended) (incorporating the rejection in claim 9), Ginter discloses the method wherein values in the configuration data wherein the behavior of the activity is defined are read based on a retrieval parameter associated with a process control area of the activity (e.g., Fig. 21, element of 872a – PARAMETERS & DATA; Col. 20, Lines 49-59 - ... for data values based on operational parameters ...)

14. **As to claim 11** (Currently Amended) (incorporating the rejection in claim 9), Ginter discloses the method wherein the status element relates to a stage of the business process (e.g., Col. 270, Lines 48-53 - ... be stipulated at any stage of a distribution chain of handling ...)

15. **As to claim 12** (Original) (incorporating the rejection in claim 9), Ginter discloses the method wherein the user interface element relates to at least one of an appearance and operability of a user interface for handling the business object (e.g., Col. 19, Lines 53-62 - VDE also accommodates a semi-automated process ... through user interface

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means ... processing certain control information ... to certain user interface queries for selection of certain alternative choices ...)

16. **As to claim 13** (Original) (incorporating the rejection in claim 9), Ginter discloses the method wherein the plausibility check element relates to plausibility checks on data relating to the business object (e.g., Col. 19, Lines 38-44 - ... from an automated electronic process ... “evaluated” ... whether certain other electronic terms and conditions attached to content ... are acceptable ...)

17. **As to claim 14** (Original) (incorporating the rejection in claim 9), Ginter discloses the method wherein the release element relates to an approval for the business object to be acted on by a subsequent activity (e.g., Col. 26, Lines 39-42 - ... enable users to take specific actions such as approving a transaction ...)

18. **As to claim 15** (Currently Amended) (incorporating the rejection in claim 9), Ginter discloses the method wherein the authorization element relates to an authorization to act on the business object (e.g., Col. 162, Lines 55 -65 - ... authenticates user authorization to make the change to secure database ...)

### ***Conclusion***

19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ben C. Wang whose telephone number is 571-270-

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1240. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached on 571-272-3695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ben C Wang/

Examiner, Art Unit 2192

September 25, 2008

/Tuan Q. Dam/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2192